

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (previously and currently amended) A method of chemical compound storage, comprising:

(a) providing a longitudinally extending carrier tape having therein two or more matrices of thermoformed chemical receiving wells, each of said two or more matrices being separated longitudinally from an adjacent one of said two or more matrices by a space greater in dimension than a space separating adjacent ones of said chemical receiving wells; ~~and~~

(b) simultaneously adding to each of said chemical receiving wells in one of said two or more matrices a chemical compound; and

(c) then, simultaneously adhering a sealing material around each of said chemical receiving wells in one of said two or more matrices to retain said chemical compounds therein and to minimize evaporation from said chemical receiving wells.

2. (previously and currently amended) A method of chemical compound storage, as defined in Claim 1, further comprising: ~~simultaneously placing a liquid tight sealing material around each of said chemical receiving wells in one of said two or more matrices to retain said chemical compounds therein and to minimize evaporation and~~ attaching said sealing material to said carrier tape around each of said chemical receiving wells using a pressure sensitive adhesive.

3. (previously amended) A method of chemical compound storage, as defined in Claim 2, further comprising: forming said carrier tape into a compact roll for storage, said roll having about 100,000 aliquots and dimensions of about 16 inches in diameter by four inches wide.

AMENDMENT
S/N 09/198,018, FILED 11/23/1998

PATENT
130-125

4. (original) A method of chemical compound storage, as defined in Claim 1, further comprising: providing said carrier tape of a thermoformable material having a thickness on the order of from about 15 mils to about 20 mils.

5. (original) A method of chemical compound storage, as defined in Claim 1, further comprising: providing said carrier tape formed of polypropylene to provide solvent resistance.

6. (original) A method of chemical compound storage, as defined in Claim 1, further comprising: providing said carrier tape formed of clear polycarbonate or polystyrene to facilitate optical reading of contents within said chemical receiving wells.

7. (previously amended) A method of chemical compound storage, as defined in Claim 1, further comprising: providing said chemical receiving wells in said two or more matrices selected from the group consisting of 8x12 wells with a spacing of 9mm between centers, 16x24 wells with a spacing of 4.5mm between centers, and 32x48 wells with a spacing of 2.25mm between centers.

8. (previously amended) A method of chemical compound storage, as defined in Claim 7, further comprising: providing each of said repetitive matrices with a unique identifier.

9. (previously and currently amended) A method of chemical compound storage, as defined in Claim 2, further comprising: removing said sealing material after adhesion, using said pressure sensitive adhesive, to said carrier tape by pulling said sealing material from said carrier tape without the use of a knife structure.

10. (previously and currently amended) A method of chemical compound storage, as defined in Claim 2 1, further comprising: providing said sealing material removably heat sealed to said carrier tape to permit removal of said sealing material after being sealed adhered to said carrier tape by pulling said sealing material from said carrier tape without the use of a knife structure.

11. (original) A method of chemical compound storage, as defined in Claim 10, further comprising providing said seal material as a two layer material having:

- (a) a lower, seal layer of a low melting point material inert to the contents of said chemical receiving wells; and
- (b) an upper high melting point layer having a higher tensile strength than said seal layer and being joined to said seal layer, to assist in removing said sealing material from said carrier tape.

12. (previously amended) A method of chemical compound storage, as defined in Claim 11, further comprising: providing said lower seal layer formed of a material selected from the group consisting of modified low density polyethylene and ethyl vinyl acetate.

13. (original) A method of chemical compound storage, as defined in Claim 11, further comprising: providing said upper layer formed from polyester.

14. (original) A method of chemical compound storage, as defined in Claim 2, further comprising: removing said sealing material from said carrier tape by using a heated roll to warm said sealing material for removal.

15. (previously amended) A method of chemical compound storage, as defined in Claim 2, further comprising:

(a) perforating said carrier tape with holes between said chemical receiving wells, said holes being disposed near upper edges of said chemical receiving wells; and

(b) evacuating space between said seal material and said carrier tape at time of sealing through said holes to assure an intimate leak tight seal is achieved between said seal material and said carrier tape.

16. (previously amended) A method of chemical compound storage, as defined in Claim 2, further comprising: die cutting said sealing material around one of said two or more matrices of said chemical receiving wells to allow manual removal of said sealing material from said pattern of said chemical receiving wells.

17. (original) A method of chemical compound storage, as defined in Claim 3, further comprising: spinning said roll to force contents of said chemical receiving wells to bottoms of said chemical receiving wells by centrifugal force.

18. (previously amended) A method of chemical compound storage, as defined in Claim 1, further comprising: severing individual said two or more matrices of said chemical receiving wells from said carrier tape so that said individual said two or more matrices can be used independently.

21. (previously and currently amended) A device for chemical compound storage, comprising: a longitudinally extending carrier tape having therein a plurality of thermoformed chemical receiving wells, said chemical wells being disposed in two or more matrices on said carrier tape and a liquid tight sealing material is adhered around each of said thermoformed chemical receiving wells to retain said chemical compounds therein and to minimize evaporation of said chemical compounds .

22. (previously and currently amended) A device for chemical compound storage, as defined in Claim 21, further comprising: ~~a liquid tight sealing material disposed around each of said thermoformed chemical receiving wells to retain said chemical compounds therein and to minimize evaporation and attaching~~ adhering said liquid tight sealing material to said carrier tape around each of said chemical receiving wells using a pressure sensitive adhesive.

23. (previously amended) A device for chemical compound storage, as defined in Claim 22, wherein: said carrier tape is formable into a compact roll for storage, said roll having about 100,000 aliquots and dimensions of about 16 inches in diameter by four inches wide.

30. (previously added and amended) A method of chemical compound storage, as defined in Claim 1, further comprising: indexing said two or more matrices of said thermoformed chemical receiving wells using a tractor drive.

31. (new) A device for chemical compound storage, as defined in Claim 21, further comprising: adhering said liquid tight sealing material around said chemical receiving wells on said carrier tape using a heat sealed material.